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79-0303/1

30 January 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of the House Armed Services Committee - 25 and 30 January 1979

1. On 25 and 30 January 1979, the Director met with the House Armed Services Committee to provide them with a worldwide intelligence wrap-up. A technical sweep of the room, 2118 Rayburn House Office Building, was conducted and the room was monitored throughout. The briefing lasted from 1330 to 1600 hours on 25 January and from 1400 to 1630 hours on 30 January. A transcript was taken and the material covered during the briefing was at the codeword level.

2. Present from the Committee were:

Melvin Price (D., Ill.), Chairman
Samuel S. Stratton (D., N.Y.)
Charles E. Bennett (D., Fla.)
Richard H. Ichord (D., Mo.)
Lucien N. Nedzi (D., Mich.)
Richard C. White (D., Tex.)
William Nichols (D., Ala.)
Jack Brinkley (D., Ga.)
Robert H. Mollohan (D., W.Va.)
Dan Daniel (D., Va.)
G. V. Montgomery (D., Miss.)
Patricia Schroeder (D., Colo.)
Antonio B. Won Pat (D., Guam)
Bob Carr (D., Mich.)
Jim Lloyd (D., Calif.)
Larry P. McDonald (D., Ga.)
Bob Stump (D., Ariz.)
Donald A. Bailey (D., Pa.)
Claude (Buddy) Leach (D., La.)
Joseph P. Wyatt, Jr. (D., Tex.)
Victor H. Fazio (D., Calif.)
Beverly B. Byron (D., Md.)

Bob Wilson (R., Calif.)
William L. Dickinson (R., Ala.)
G. William Whitehurst (R., Va.)
Robin L. Beard (R., Tenn.)
Donald J. Mitchell (R., N.Y.)
Robert W. Daniel, Jr. (R., Va.)
Elwood Hillis (R., Ind.)
Floyd Spence (R., S.C.)
Mendel J. Davis (R., S.C.)
David Emery (R., Maine)
Paul S. Trible (R., Va.)
Robert E. Badham (R., Calif.)
James A. Courter (R., N.J.)
Charles F. Dougherty (R., Pa.)
Melvin H. Evans (V.I.)

3. Present from the Committee staff were:

John J. Ford, Staff Director
William H. Hogan, Chief Counsel

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James F. Shumate, Jr., Counsel
Ralph Marshall, Professional Staff Member
John Lally, Counsel
George Norris, Counsel, and other staff members



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4. Accompanying the Director were:

Howard Stoertz

National Intelligence Officer for
Strategic Programs

Robert Ames

National Intelligence Officer for Near
East and South Asia



Acting National Intelligence Officer for
Conventional Forces

Frederick P. Hitz

National Intelligence Officer for China
Office of Economic Research

Legislative Counsel, Office of the Director
of Central Intelligence

Congressional Support Staff, National
Foreign Assessment Center

Congressional Support Staff, National
Foreign Assessment Center

Assistant Legislative Counsel

Director, Community Legislative Liaison

Office, Resource Management Staff

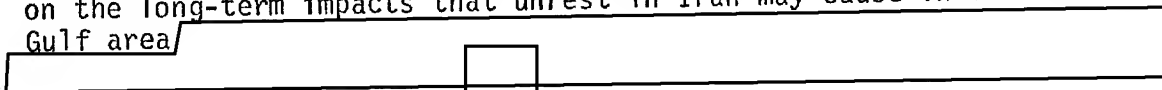
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5. The Director offered his views to the Committee on a number of important situations around the world, with particular emphasis on the following:

a. The current situation in Iran. The Director discussed the principal groups involved in the political upheaval, the present state of the Iranian economy and the oil slowdown. He also touched on the long-term impacts that unrest in Iran may cause in the Persian Gulf area.



b. The DCI continued with an outline of the Soviet Union's present political and economic situation. Also cited were major developments in Soviet strategic forces and the modernization and expansion of Warsaw Pact Forces.



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c. Moving on to the Far East, the Director noted Vietnam's present military occupation of Cambodia, the Intelligence Community's reassessment of the military balance of forces in Korea and the recent rapprochement between China and the United States.



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d. The Director touched on the Middle East, specifically, diplomatic overtures between Syria and Iraq, current attitudes in

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Saudi Arabia towards the Egyptian/Israeli peace process, and the oil situation in the Persian Gulf. []

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e. The DCI concluded with a brief synopsis of the current situation in South Africa and Soviet activities in the Horn. []

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5. Several questions were asked by Messrs. Stratton, Beard, Daniel and Whitehurst concerning Iran/ []

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6. Mr. Stratton questioned the Director on certain discrepancies of the Intelligence Community's reporting on North Korean troop strength. The Director indicated that he is trying to be as forthright as possible with Congress concerning this. He added that he does not intend to downplay estimates from other components in the Intelligence Community. []

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7. Mr. Ichord shared Mr. Beard's concern that the Soviets are presently placing a great deal of emphasis on developing their chemical warfare capabilities and that this could pose a major threat to the United States in the future. Mr. Beard expressed concern that this was not covered in the DCI's testimony before the Committee. [] reassured the members by stating that in a recent Community study on this subject, no evidence was found that would support the theory that the Soviets plan to use chemical warfare capabilities before nuclear weapons are employed. []

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8. Follow-up items for the members included:

a. Mr. Dan Daniel requested a comparison of the airlift capacities of NATO and Warsaw Pact Forces (p. 46, transcript of 25 January). A paper on this subject has been provided to Mr. Daniel. []

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b. Mr. Stratton expressed an interest in obtaining the Agency's tank figures on NATO (p. 54, transcript of 25 January). Mr. Hitz provided Mr. Stratton with the information the same day. []

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c. Mr. Jim Lloyd invited the Director to appear before the Subcommittee on Research and Development, at his convenience, sometime in the near future (p. 76, transcript of 25 January). Representatives from OLC, RMS and ORPA appeared before the R&D Subcommittee to discuss the Soviet Strategic Process and SALT on 20 February. []

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d. Mr. McDonald questioned the DCI on Soviet Civil Defense capability (p. 58, transcript of 25 January). A copy of an unclassified study on this subject was sent to Mr. McDonald. []

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e. Messrs. White and Whitehurst asked the DCI about the existence of a "white paper," supposedly from Moscow, which indicated that Ethiopia and Russia were attempting to set up "pockets of Russian influence" throughout the Horn (p. 69-70, transcript of 30 January). The Director said he was not familiar with this but indicated that he would be interested in getting a copy of the paper. Mr. Bob Ames provided the following information, "The Agency has known about this "plan" as an idea that both the Soviets and Cubans have promoted. We haven't heard of it as a "white paper," although the idea has been around for a long time. [redacted]

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g. Mr. Nedzi requested a history of projections or estimates that the Agency has made over the last ten years or so (P. 74, transcript of 30 January). A paper on this subject is being prepared in NFAC and will be provided to Mr. Nedzi as soon as possible. [redacted]

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Distribution:

Orig - OLC Subj

1 - OLC Chrono

1 - Howard Stoertz (NIO/SP)

1 - Robert Ames (NIO/NE&SA)

1 - [redacted]

1 - [redacted]

1 - [redacted]

1 - Frederick P. Hitz (LC/O/DCI)

1 - [redacted]

1 - [redacted]

1 - [redacted]

1 - [redacted]

1 - [redacted]

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